

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below. Claims 21-22, 45-46, and 49-68 are currently pending, of which claims 21, 22, 45, and 46 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21, 22, 45, and 46.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a)

Claims 24-27, 29-33, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0018251 to Solomon ("the Solomon publication") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0097805 to Verard ("the Verard publication") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,198,959 B1 to Wang ("the Wang patent").

Claims 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Solomon publication, the Verard publication, and the Wang patent further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,898 B1 to Vesely ("the Vesely patent").

These rejections are obviated by the cancellation of each of those claims. Applicant has cancelled claims 24-27, 29-35 and 47 to advance prosecution of the application and do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterization of the references or the claim rejections. In fact, Applicant maintains that the claims are patentable over the cited references and reserves the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application.

New claims 49-68 are allowable based at least on their dependence upon independent claims 21, 22, 45 or 46.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. The Applicant believes that a full and complete

response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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